

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

01/16/2013 04:11 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest 1/16/13

OPA Daily Digest for 1/16/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (Mo.) – Phone inquiry – 1/11/13: Requests meeting with the RA to discuss the city of Fulton's wastewater draft permit. Due: 1/18/12. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (Mo.) – Letter – 1/8/13: Constituent concern about a Superfund Information Request regarding Fronabarger Concreters, Inc., in Cape Girardeau. Due: 1/23/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

House Democratic Committee Members (Iowa) - Email – 1/14/13: Requesting EPA provide a briefing on Nutrient Reduction. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

None

Environmental Stories:

Des Moines Register - New rule to aid DNR enforcement irks critics - 1/16/13 - The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission on Tuesday unanimously approved a new system of environmental enforcement actions. The new rule was written with the help of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry. Critics, including Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, said the rule, which creates a system of informal warning letters for minor cases, could weaken enforcement.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130116/NEWS10/301160075/1001/>

Kansas City Business Journal - Wind energy industry faces headwinds - 1/16/13 - Despite Congress' extension of a wind energy tax credit, 2013 may be the start of a downfall of the industry.
http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/blog/morning_call/2013/01/future-of-wind-energy-looks-shaky.html

Wall Street Journal - Wind Industry's Roar May Diminish in 2013 - 1/15/13 - The U.S. wind industry is planning new wind farms again after Congress renewed subsidies, giving idled factories that make turbines and components the prospect of a fresh set of orders in the second half of 2013.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324595704578243830388986480.html>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Feds withdraw new furnace efficiency standards - 1/16/13 - The federal government has agreed to withdraw new rules that would require consumers in Missouri, Illinois and more than two dozen other northern states to purchase high-efficiency furnaces beginning this spring.
http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/feds-withdraw-new-furnace-efficiency-standards/article_7ccf47e4-2e7b-55a4-a1fc-6c301b7eec7f.html

Omaha World-Herald - Two ethanol plants to be idled for now - 1/16/13 - The Abengoa Bioenergy ethanol plants in Ravenna and York, Neb., are facing temporary shutdowns. Chris Standlee, Abengoa

executive vice president, said the shutdowns are the result of an unfavorable ethanol market.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20130116/MONEY/701169902>

Des Moines Register - Water Works to test Saylorville release - 1/16/13 - A test-run release of water from Saylorville Lake today reflects an increasing concern by the state's largest water authority about the quality and quantity of available water in central Iowa, the organization's leader said.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130116/NEWS/301160057/1001/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Laclede Gas says customers won't pay merger premium - 1/16/13 -

Almost a month after announcing a \$1.04 billion agreement to buy two gas utilities, Laclede Gas Co. is asking Missouri regulators to approve one of the sales.

http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/laclede-gas-says-customers-won-t-pay-merger-premium/article_ef0e8959-7ecd-5ce3-8ef5-323139a4a02c.html

Associated Press - Kansas ag secretary wants repeal of corporate farming restrictions - 1/15/13 -

Kansas' top agriculture official called Tuesday for the repeal of state laws restricting corporations' involvement in agriculture, a move that would reverse a policy enacted more than 80 years ago.

<http://www.kansas.com/2013/01/15/2636661/kan-to-see-push-to-repeal-corporate.html>

St. Louis Beacon - Shadows get to experience a day in the life of a green professional - 1/16/13 -

Jacob Beebe, a Washington University grad student in architecture wants to pursue a career in the St. Louis area after graduation, but he hears that that's not always the case for others. It's a phenomenon that the USGBC-Missouri Gateway Chapter aims to combat by casting a shadow – a green shadow to be exact. https://www.stlbeacon.org/#!/content/28881/green_shadow?coverpage=2539

Asbestos.com - Radon Exposure in Homes Across America Still Leading to Lung Cancer - 1/15/13

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this week intensified its campaign to reduce exposure to radon by urging homeowners across America to test for the dangerous gas.

<http://www.asbestos.com/news/2013/01/15/radon-exposure-in-homes-across-america-still-leading-to-lung-cancer/>

Politico - Ken Salazar's legacy includes push for wind, solar energy - 1/16/13 -

When Ken Salazar came into office as Interior secretary, no large-scale solar projects had been approved and the offshore Cape Wind project near the Massachusetts coast had been stalled for years.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/salazars-legacy-includes-push-for-wind-solar-86267.html>

Midwest Energy News - At Detroit auto show, electric vehicles still make a splash - 1/16/13 -

With electric vehicles still largely a niche product – even hologram Edison acknowledged “the transition will still take some time” – companies with all-electric offerings recognize the importance of competing for your attention, if nothing else.

<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/01/16/at-detroit-auto-show-electric-vehicles-still-make-a-splash/>

The Hill - EPA says new air quality revisions will slash industry costs, health risks - 1/15/13 -

The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday issued final revisions to a 2010 air quality rule, saying the changes would reduce costs associated with the regulations while also protecting public health.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/legislation/277247-epa-says-new-air-quality-revisions-will-slash-industry-costs-health-risks>

Politico - API campaign touts XL pipeline, natural gas exports – 1/15/13 - The American Petroleum Institute has launched a new media campaign to build support for the Keystone XL pipeline, eliminate renewable fuels mandates and allow natural gas exports.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/api-campaign-touts-xl-pipeline-natural-gas-exports-86242.html>

The Hill - Court denies challenge to EPA ethanol ruling - 1/15/13 - A federal court on Tuesday

preserved an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruling that permits the sale of a high-ethanol fuel blend. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/277269-court-denies-challenge-to-high-ethanol-fuel-sales>

Planet Ark - Black carbon a powerful climate pollutant: international study - 1/16/13 - Black carbon, the soot produced by burning fossil fuels and biomass, is a more potent atmospheric pollutant than previously thought, according to a four-year international study released on Tuesday. <http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/67628>

Associated Press - EPA changed course after oil company protested – 1/15/13 - When a man in a Fort Worth suburb reported his family's drinking water had begun "bubbling" like champagne, the federal government sounded an alarm: An oil company may have tainted their wells while drilling for natural gas. <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/01/16/3184786/epa-changed-course-after-oil-company.html>

Greenwire - Path-blazing researcher explores environmental links to autism - What causes autism? - 1/15/13 - University of California, Davis, epidemiologist Irva Hertz-Picciotto has been pursuing another angle: Does the environment around a pregnant woman play a role in determining whether her child develops autism? <http://eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2013/01/15/2>

Scientific American - Fortified by Global Warming, Deadly Fungus Poisons Corn Crops, Causes Cancer - 1/15/13 - Last year's drought increased the spread of a carcinogenic mold called aspergillus (Aspergillus flavus), a fungal pathogen that poisons cattle, kills pets and has infected the 2012 corn crop, rendering significant portions of the harvest unfit for consumption. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=deadly-fungus-poisons-corn-crops>

ClimateWire - House passes disaster funding, but future challenges loom – 1/16/13 - House lawmakers approved spending \$50.7 billion last night for a vast rebuilding effort in areas stricken by Superstorm Sandy, deciding with bipartisan support that paying for disasters and projects to avert future damage would be an acceptable increase to the federal deficit. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2013/01/16/1>

The Guardian (U.K.) - Insecticide 'unacceptable' danger to bees, report finds - 1/16/13 - The world's most widely used insecticide has for the first time been officially labelled an "unacceptable" danger to bees feeding on flowering crops. Environmental campaigners say the conclusion, by Europe's leading food safety authority, sounds the "death knell" for the insect nerve agent. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jan/16/insecticide-unacceptable-danger-bees/print>

Climatewire - Obama off the hook for inaction over climate, study says - 1/16/13 - Blame for U.S. failure on climate action falls on Washington, D.C.-based environmental groups, not on the White House, a study says. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/01/16/12>

Greenwire - API's new campaign seeks repeal of biofuel mandates - 1/16/13 - The American Petroleum Institute is rolling out a new media campaign, a major goal of which is to push for repeal of the nation's biofuel mandates. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2013/01/15/11>

Greenwire - Some see make-or-break year for cellulosic industry - 1/16/13 - Long described as an industry that's "five years away," manufacturers of U.S. cellulosic biofuels say they're ready at last to make big gains in 2013. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2013/01/15/4>

ClimateWire - Critical materials research needed to secure U.S. manufacturing, officials say - 1/16/13 - Energy Department officials said yesterday that developing alternatives to critical materials, like rare earth metals used in solar panels and wind turbines, is crucial to American manufacturing stability and can help the United States circumvent global market pressures. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/01/16/6>

Fox News - EPA Issues New Emission Rules for Diesel Generators - 1/15/14 - The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency issued new emission rules Tuesday for diesel generators used for oil and natural-gas production, emergency situations and other uses that the agency said would cut costs while reducing air pollution.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/15/epa-issues-new-emission-rules-for-diesel-generators/>

E&E Daily - Leaders of new House panel draw early battle lines around NEPA, national monuments - 1/16/13 - The chairman of a new House subcommittee said he plans to shine a spotlight on a pair of environmental laws many critics blame for stifling the use of public lands but that are fiercely defended by conservationists. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/01/16/1>

E&E Daily - Lawmaker looks to broader reform debate to pass bill eliminating energy credits - 1/16/13 - Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.) yesterday reintroduced legislation aimed at eliminating tax credits for energy producers and suggested he could support broadening the scope of his effort to also target other incentives. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/01/16/10>

E&E Daily - Report on record U.S. heat spurs lawmaker calls to act on warming - 1/16/13 - A new report showing that the contiguous United States had its hottest year ever in 2012 was hailed by a key Senate Democrat as further evidence of the need to address climate change. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/01/16/13>

Christian Science Monitor - Clean-energy subsidies: Do we need them? (video) - 1/16/13 - Dan Simmons, director of regulatory and state affairs at the Institute for Energy Research, calls for equal tax treatment and an end to energy subsidies across the industry, in a roundtable discussion hosted by the Monitor. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2013/0115/Clean-energy-subsidies-Do-we-need-them-video>

Christian Science Monitor - Soot is No. 2 global-warming culprit, study finds (+ video) - 1/16/13 - A new study suggests that soot plays a major role in climate change – second only to carbon-dioxide emissions. Targeting soot could lead to quicker results in battling global warming. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2013/0115/Soot-is-No.-2-global-warming-culprit-study-finds-video>

eNews USA (blog) - Black Carbon Climate Impacts "Seriously Underestimated" - 1/16/13 - A landmark, four-year assessment report, Bounding the role of black carbon in the climate system, published online in the Journal of Geophysical Research (JGR): Atmospheres, indicates that black carbon (BC) is the second most powerful climate pollutant, ahead of methane. <http://enewsusa.blogspot.com/2013/01/black-carbon-climate-impacts-seriously.html>

Greenwire - Air emissions dropped, but total chemical releases grew in 2011 -- EPA - 1/16/13 - Toxic air emissions dropped by 8 percent from 2010 to 2011, though total emissions of hazardous chemicals rose for the second year in a row. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2013/01/16/28>

Greenwire - EPA reversed well-contamination order after driller protested - 1/16/13 - U.S. EPA decided not to move forward with a potential well-contamination case after the driller threatened not to cooperate with a national study into hydraulic fracturing, according to a confidential report. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2013/01/16/17>

Greenwire - Fight over power plants has parallels to fuel-economy push in Obama's first term - 1/16/13 - When he entered the Oval Office four years ago, President Obama gave environmentalists something they had long sought: a presidential commitment to much stronger fuel economy standards. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2013/01/16/3>

Des Moines Register - Des Moines Water Works sues FEMA for flood repairs - 1/16/13 - The Des Moines Water Works has filed a lawsuit against the Federal Emergency Management Agency claiming

the agency promised to pay millions of dollars to help repair damage caused by the 2008 flood but later reversed the decision.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20130116/NEWS/130116007/Des-Moines-Water-Works-sues-FEMA-flood-repairs>

Bloomberg - Tougher Fracking Regulations Backed by 66%, Poll Shows - 1/16/13 - Support for regulation of hydraulic fracturing has increased in the past three months, a sign that the gas-drilling practice is facing greater public scrutiny. A Bloomberg National Poll found that 66 percent of Americans want more government oversight of the process, known as fracking, in which water, chemicals and sand are shot underground to free gas trapped in rock.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-14/tougher-fracking-regulations-backed-by-66-poll-shows.html>

Domestic Fuel - Appeals Court Denies Challenge to 15% Ethanol – 1/15/13 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit today denied petitions for rehearing in the case of the Grocery Manufacturers Association, et al. v. EPA, which challenges the decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to allowing commercial sales of 15% ethanol (E15).

<http://domesticfuel.com/2013/01/15/appeals-court-denies-challenge-to-15-ethanol/>

PHYS.org - Researcher awarded \$5.08 million to study oilseed camelina as biofuel feedstock - 1/15/13 - It may not be a household name even among farm families, but the oilseed camelina is showing good potential as an environmentally-friendly commercial biofuel feedstock, particularly for biodiesel and jet fuel.

<http://phys.org/wire-news/119728038/researcher-awarded-508-million-to-study-oilseed-camelina-as-biofuel.html>

Domestic Fuel - Vilsack Ties Farm Bill to Biofuels, Will Serve Again as Ag Secretary - 1/15/13 - Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack says the future success of biofuels in this country is also tied to successfully getting a new five-year farm bill passed.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2013/01/15/vilsack-ties-farm-bill-to-biofuels-will-serve-again-as-ag-secretary/>

Yale Environment 360 - Insecticides Pose Threat To Bee Populations, Report Says - 1/16/13 -

European scientists have found that imidacloprid, the world's most widely used insecticide, poses "unacceptable" risks to bee populations, a finding that some groups hope will result in a ban on the chemical. http://e360.yale.edu/digest/insecticides_pose_threat_to_bee_populations_report_says/3740/

E&E News PM - Watchdogs accuse industry of trying to rush waste policy rewrite - 1/15/13 - The nuclear industry is attempting to push through a "rush job" on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's redo of waste policies so pending license applications and renewals aren't delayed, watchdog groups charged today. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2013/01/15/4>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

1/17/13 - Interview with Kelly Lenz, WIBW – Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

1/17/13 - Martin Luther King Event, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/23/13 - Visit the Science and Technology Center, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/24/13 - Meet and greet with Richard Baron of McCormack, Baron, Salazar Development, Inc., St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/24/13 - Meet with Carter Carburetor Stakeholders, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

1/29/13 - Visit the Training and Logistics Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

1/30/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/5/13 – Meet and greet with John Frece, Director, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities (OSC), Regional Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

2/6/13 - Meet and greet with Chairman Dennis Hedke, Kansas House Energy and Environment Committee, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

2/7/13 - 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/22/13 - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

DRA:

1/17/13 - Attend Martin Luther King Event, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Greg Davis, 7208

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with US Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/19/13 - Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) presentation, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

SA:

1/18/13 - Attend Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City. Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

RA/Immediate Office

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/J

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

1/23/13 - OSWER and OAM meeting with Acquisition and Superfund Programs regarding Remedial Acquisition Framework/Strategy, Regional Office. Contact: Lee Thomas, 7739

RA/OPA

1/17/13 – Public Meeting for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Debbie Kring, 7725 (Reps. From SUPR, CNSL, EJ, and OPA attending).

SUPR

None

WWPD

1/18/13 – Hinkson Creek Science Team / Action Team meeting, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

***1/22 - 23/13-** Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Presentation, Carroll, Iowa. Contact: Stephen Pollard, 7582

1/22-24/13 - Groundwater Protection Council Meeting, Sarasota, Fla. Contacts: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413, David Garrett, 7159

1/22/13 - Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy meeting, Manhattan, Kan. Contact: Steve Schaff, 7447

1/24/13 - Keynote address at State Association of Kansas Watersheds, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

***1/31/13** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, Kansas City, Mo. Contacts: Mary Tietjen Mindrup, 7431; Stan Calow, 7410

2/7/13 - Missouri Water Classification Workgroup Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

Hattie L. Thomas
Deputy Director
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
Ph: 913-551-7762, Fax: 913-551-7066

